

SECRET

DDA 78-4012

OLC #78-4077/2

18 October 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

FROM: John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

Fred:

1. The attached tends to give me heartburn but I solicit your advice as to a course of action on which to proceed.

2. With practically no exceptions whatsoever, personnel serving in the Executive Branch of the Government are precluded from first-class air travel within the United States, and for that matter almost on an international basis. In the instant case, as you may remember, we detailed our employee [redacted] to the House Appropriations Committee for up to a six-month period. We are now asked to approve any travel he might make under rules of the Legislative and not the Executive Branch. It is a demonstrably clear case of a double standard.

3. I don't necessarily want to "tilt at windmills," but it does seem to me [redacted] should be subjected to this same discipline as any other member of the Executive Branch within which he continues to remain as an employee.

4. May I have the benefit of your counsel.

[redacted]
John F. Blake

Att:
Travel Order for

[redacted]

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OLC #78-4077

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DDA

20 OCT 1978

TO: Jack Blake, DDA

Jack:

I am sensitive to the concerns you raised but as I see it we are writing this travel order only for the Committee's convenience since all expenses thereunder are reimbursable by them to us. I think the key factor is that the House Appropriations Committee must determine the mode of travel and perhaps the question you have raised would be satisfied if in the travel order after the phrase "performance of duties" there was inserted the phrase "at the direction of and". This would clearly tie the standard of travel to the Committee's determination as opposed to any possible determination by the individual himself under the travel order.

Fred Hitz